

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus (1) comprising at least one planar surface (2) whereat compartments (3) are found and are defined by a partition (4), the compartments creating a space which makes it possible to displace at least one liquid sample (5 and/or 15) and, when there are at least two liquid samples (5 and 15), makes it possible to displace them both in an independent way and bring them together so that they can react with one another, characterized in that the compartments (3) consist of at least two different types of groove:

- a first type of groove, said to be deep (6), serving as a partitioning means of the sample(s) (5 and/or 15), the depth of the deep groove(s) (6) in relation to the partition (4) being such that capillary action is not enabled, and
- a second type of groove, said to be shallow (16), serving as a receiving means for said sample(s) (5 and/or 15), the depth of the shallow groove(s) (16) in relation to the partition (4) being such that capillary action is enabled,

the two different types of groove (6 and 16) making it possible to direct sample movements (5 and/or 15) by altering the orientation of the device (1).

2. The apparatus, according to claim 1, characterized in that the width of each deep groove (6) is such that capillary action is not enabled.

3. The apparatus, according to either of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that at least one shallow groove (16) is adjacent to a deep groove (6).

4. The apparatus, according to any of claims 1 through 3, characterized in that at least one deep groove (6) is adjacent to a shallow groove (16).

5. The apparatus, according to any of claims 1 through 4, characterized in that a deep groove (6) is positioned between two shallow grooves (16).

6. The apparatus, according to claim 5, characterized in that one of the ends of the deep groove (6) is free (7), and the two shallow grooves (16) meet at this free end to create a reaction zone (8) there.

7. The apparatus, according to claim 6, characterized in that
the distance between the reaction zone (8) and the partition or the
partitioning film (4) is such that capillary action is enabled.

8. The apparatus, according to claim 6, characterized in that the distance between the reaction zone (8) and the partition or the partitioning film (4) is such that capillary action is not enabled.

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Abstract